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# Message Text

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61
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---------- 002044
P 221930 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS ON RECEIPT
TAGS: PFOR, XA, OAU, UN

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL OF MAY 22

1. NEW YORK TIMES OF MAY 22 CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL HEADED " PRIORITIES FOR AFRICANS":

" IF THE 41- NATION ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TAKES ITS OWN CHARTER SERIOUSLY AT ITS TENTH- ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA THIS WEEK IT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO TWO TASKS ABOVE ALL OTHERS: RELIEVING THE FAMINE THAT THREATENS MILLIONS OF AFRICANS IN SIX COUNTRIES BORDERING THE SAHARA, AND HALTING THE KILLING OF AFRICANS BY OTHER AFRICANS FOR ETHNIC AND TRIBAL REASONS.

IT IS A MEASURE OF THE OAU' S OBSESSION WITH ENDING WHITE MINORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO THE EXCLUSION OF EVERYTHING ELSE THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS PLAYED NO MAJOR ROLE IN CALLING WORLD ATTENTION TO THE CATASTROPHIC SITUA- TION DEVELOPING AS THE RESULT OF PERHAPS THE CENTURY' S WORST FAMINE IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA. THIS WAS THE SAME
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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ATTITUDE OF NEGLECT ASSUMED BY THE OAU DURING A CHOLERA EPIDEMIC THAT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SAYS KILLED MORE THAN 13,000 AFRICANS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

THE WHITE RULERS OF SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE DESERVE THE WORLD' S CENSURE FOR REPRESSING AFRICAN MAJORITIES; BUT NONE OF THEM HAS CARRIED OUT ETHNIC MASSACRES ON ANYTHING APPROACHING THE SCALE OF THE TUTSIS AND HUTUS OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI. AN ESTIMATED 100,000 HUTUS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY THE TUTSI MINORITY REGIME IN BURUNDI IN TRIBAL CONFLICT LAST YEAR.

THE CREATION OF THE OAU IN 1963, MOSTLY BY NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES, WAS ALMOST A MIRACLE. IT IS NOT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO FALL SHORT OF LOFTY GOALS ENSHRINED IN A CHARTER. YET THE LEADERS ASSEMBLING IN ETHIOPIA SURELY REALIZE THAT THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IS MEASURED NOT BY BELLICOSE RESOLUTIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT BY PROGRESS IN BUILDING THAT " LARGER UNITY, TRANSCENDING ETHNIC AND NATIONAL DIFFERENCES," TO WHICH THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TEN YEARS AGO."

2. IN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON RHODESIA MAY 22, KENYA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO EDITOR-IAL.
DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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